

## Find out more about being a foster carer

Contact us:

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Our foster carers come from all over Melbourne's northern and western suburbs.

People from other parts of Victoria can contact the Foster Care Hotline on 1800 013 088 or visit [www.fosterabrighterfuture.com.au](http://www.fosterabrighterfuture.com.au)

### About us

Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service is a community services organisation that has been helping people battle poverty and disadvantage since 1976.

We believe everyone deserves an equal place in the world and a quality of life that makes participation in the community possible. This is why we work with the most vulnerable, particularly women and girls.



# You can make a difference in their world.

Foster carers help our children grow safe and well.

## Who can be a foster carer?

All sorts of people can be foster carers: single people, retired people, working people, people living in flats and units, people with and without children, gay and lesbian people and people from all cultural, language and religious backgrounds.

**Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service values carers from all backgrounds and lifestyles.**

## What's involved?

Foster carers give home based care and support to children and young people of all ages. Carers choose the length and type of care they are willing to provide. This may be anything from occasional weekends giving disadvantaged children and young people new experiences, to longer term care for those who can't live with their families.

**On any given day, there are over 5000 Victorian children who can't live safely at home, through no fault of their own.**

## Is foster caring for me?

Foster caring is both challenging and rewarding. Children and young people needing foster care have often had difficult lives. They may have experienced abuse or neglect as well as separation from their families.

Our foster care team can give information and advice to help you decide if foster caring is for you. We can also help you choose the type of care and ages of children that will fit your lifestyle and family.

## We support you while you support them.

If you decide to give foster care a go, we can:

- Give you the training and skills you need to become an accredited foster carer.
- Provide personalised support, access to a 24-hour hotline and ongoing training to assist you in your caring role.
- Arrange reimbursements for the costs of caring.
- Link you in with our activities to support and care for foster carers and their families.

Our foster care staff are qualified professionals with many years experience.



**“There have been many smiles and tears, but in the end it has all been worth it—to know that you’ve made a difference in the life of one child.”**

**- Carer involved in the Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service foster care program**